

Lord, make me an instrument  
of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## St. Gertrude Chicago

1420 N. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660

773.764.3621

[stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org)

[www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)

Sunday, October 3, 2021

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### From Father Rich

#### Sign-Up Sunday

This weekend is our annual Sign-Up Sunday weekend. We invite and encourage every parishioner to take some time and consider if they have the time (or can make the time) to

be a parish minister or volunteer. The wide range of needs and available ministries is on the Sign-Up Sunday forms in all the pews and on the tables in the back of church.

If a ministry or volunteer activity requires training, we will provide the training; if it requires a background check and the Virtus training for the safety of all children or vulnerable adults, we will help walk you through the process.

Some ministries or volunteer opportunities are recurring -- e.g. being a Lector or Minister of Communion might mean being scheduled to assist at one of the weekend Masses once or twice a month; and some activities have more and some have less frequencies in their usual schedules. Please give it some thought! Other ministries -- such as praying for the sick and homebound -- you can do on your own schedule at your preferred location.

Special places of need this year include the three Parish Advisory Boards: the Parish **Pastoral Council (PPC)**, the **Parish Finance Council**, and the **Parish Development Council**, as well as the newly-forming **Social Justice Committee**.

Please consider your own talents and how they might be service to the broader parish community.

#### **Pet Blessing - Sunday, October 3 After the 10:30 am Masses (About 11:45 am)**

Please join us with your pet(s) for our annual Pet Blessing on the front steps of church. We always schedule this as close as possible to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - whose Feast Day is Monday, October 4. Fr. Mike Bradley will be stepping in for St. Francis, blessing all kinds of pets.

#### **Welcome Back!**

Next weekend, we have some presiders returning to help us out that we haven't seen since the lockdown began back in March of 2020. Welcome back, Fr. Bill Creed, S.J., and Fr. Jim Stoeger, S.J. We're glad to have you back!

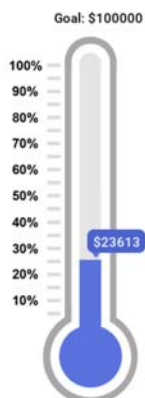
~ Father Rich

# Repair, Renew, Refresh

This is week 3 of our **Repair, Renew, Refresh** campaign to raise \$100,000 to supplement a recent gift from Ray Simon and the Polk Bros. Foundation. As of Wednesday, September 29, we have received \$23,613.00. With these funds, we hope to be able to address five needs in the parish:

1. Exterior repairs to the church and rectory **roofs** from some long-term damage, and the damage from February's severe snowstorm. This includes repairing and replacing certain sections of roofing, and all the **interior water damage** in both buildings.
2. Installation of three new **handrails** to provide accessibility for anyone stepping up from the main floor of church into the sanctuary, and from the main floor of the sanctuary onto the altar platform.
3. **Re-carpeting** the church. The current carpeting is over 30 years old and can't get any cleaner, nor can it be repaired any more.
4. Rebuilding the entrance **stairways** to the Parish Hall main entrance, and the south (accessible) entrance to the church.
5. Establishing the St. Gertrude **Catholic Education Support Fund** to assist parish families with children enrolled at NCA. This fund will be available for families in need both for enrolling new students, and for assisting families dealing with crises due to health, employment, or other unexpected situations.

A donation form is part of the **Repair, Renew, Refresh** brochure. Please complete the form, place it and your donation in the return envelope, in the Sunday Offertory, or drop it off at the rectory office, or mail back. Donations can also be made electronically by accessing GiveCentral through the parish webpage: <https://stgertrudechicago.org>.



*Repair-Renew-Refresh*  
Campaign

**DONATIONS  
TO DATE**

**\$23,613.00  
of \$100,000**

Please give as you are able. Gifts of \$500 and more can be paid over six months, if that is helpful. The **Repair, Renew, Refresh** campaign will run for eight weeks, ending on our parish Feast Day weekend, November 13 -14.

Thank you for praying over the parish needs and considering what donation you are able to make.

**Repair, Renew, Refresh Campaign: Spotlight on Repairs Needed to the Church & Rectory Roofs and Interior Water Damage:** The church and rectory roofs have sustained damage over the years, and we also need to make repairs from water damage. The estimated cost for this part of the campaign is \$76,775.



## Sign-Up Sunday Information

This Sunday, October 3 is Sign-Up Sunday! Please consider how you can serve our faith community. There are many different ministries and groups that truly make St. Gertrude special.

They include:

### Parish Advisory Boards *(working with Fr. Rich)*

- **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** The PCP meets about once a month (but usually takes the summer off). This is the group of parishioners who consider the pastoral direction of the parish. Members listen to parishioners to get a sense of where the overall direction should be focused. They bring this wisdom to the PPC meetings in order to determine how we might best respond to the needs and directions that are brought forward. The PPC goes through an annual discernment process to determine membership each year of both general members and then the PPC officers.
- **Parish Finance Council:** This team meets about four or five times a year. Members review monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual financial reports to keep updated on the financial condition of the parish. With this information, they are able to make informed decisions about the annual parish budget and how we are staying on track or need to modify certain activities in order to stay within our budget. The Finance Council also approves the budget, and at the end of the fiscal year, also approves the Annual Report. Membership is open to any parishioner.
- **Parish Development Council:** This group tries to anticipate upcoming financial needs and how they might best be met. This includes everything from considering if the Sunday Offertory collections are meeting the budget and, if not, what fundraising steps need to be taken. They also look at some extraordinary needs -- such as maintenance and repairs to the buildings.

### Religious Education and Youth Ministry *(working with Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, Religious Education and Youth Ministry)*

- **Catechist:** Sign up to become a Catechist on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 am to help children to find the presence of God among us.
- **Kids Word Volunteer:** On Sundays during 10:30 am Mass in church, volunteers share age-appropriate scripture readings with children ages 5-9.
- **Youth Group Volunteer:** Help facilitate activities supporting our parish youth's faith and personal development.

### Liturgical Ministries

*(working with Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate)*

- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Assist in the distribution of Holy Communion at Masses.
- **Lectors:** Proclaim the Word of God at Masses.
- **Ushers/Greeters:** Welcomes parishioners to Masses, takes up the collection.

*(working with Mary Clare Barker, Music Director)*

- **Cantors, Vocal Ensembles, Musicians:** Opportunities abound to cantor at weekend Masses, participate in small vocal ensembles at the 10:30 am Sunday morning Mass, or accompany our Masses on a string, woodwind, or brass instrument.



## Sign-Up Sunday Information (*cont.*)

### Social Services

- **Heart to Heart Ministry for Seniors** (*working with Jane-Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services*)  
Volunteers help their neighbors aged 60 and above who need support to sustain their independence by driving seniors to medical appointments, procedures, and more. Other volunteers are needed to call homebound seniors weekly to ensure their well-being, while others commit to praying for those who have requested prayers at least once daily using the Ministry of Praise letter mailed monthly.

### Social Justice Ministries

- **New! Social Justice: Peace and Justice Committee** (*working with Fr. Mike Gabriel*)  
As people of faith, we are commissioned to call out many of the injustices in our world. There is an urgent need now more than ever for us to be a church not only of statements and prayers but one of action, where God's love, justice, and mercy can grow. We are looking for people who would be willing to be part of this committee, to help focus on specific injustices and to facilitate parish social justice activities.
- **Refugee and Immigrant Ministry:** This group sponsors refugees and immigrants, providing both financial and emotional support as they settle into their new lives in Chicago.
- **United Power for Action and Justice:** United Power works with faith communities, including St. Gertrude, to help them connect and put their power behind the issues that matter most to them. The group is currently working on issues related to gun violence, health care, affordable housing, immigration, and violence prevention.

### Laudato Si': Care for our Common Home

- **Resurrection Compost** (*working with Mary Clare Barker, Music Director*)  
This seasonal project combines composting and a vegetable garden. Parishioners lease a composting bucket and deposit appropriate materials in the parish's compost bin. The compost is then used to fertilize our vegetable garden, tended to by volunteers, that feeds patrons of Care for Real and the St. Thomas of Canterbury soup kitchen.

In addition to the above groups, there are several other liturgical, environmental initiatives, social justice, social, and neighborhood groups affiliated with our parish! Please visit [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org) and look under *Ministries/Community Life* for details.

## Pet Blessing This Sunday, October 3

All creatures, great and small, are welcome to the blessing for animals on Sunday, October 3 after the 10:30 am Masses. Father Mike Bradley will officiate the 20-30 minute ceremony, held in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

Please join us outside on the steps to the church around 11:45 am.



## It's Heart to Heart Month! Please Support our Ministry for Seniors

This October, we celebrate the work of Heart to Heart, a ministry grown at St. Gertrude that serves some of the most vulnerable residents in Edgewater—senior citizens. The outreach program works both to connect those in need with programs they may be eligible for, and to provide practical help.

Volunteers drive them to doctors' appointments, run errands, pick up prescriptions, check in with a phone call, or even walk the dog of a sick parishioner. With the help of dedicated volunteers, we've been able to help hundreds of seniors live quality, dignified, and independent lives in their own home.

Equally as important as tending to basic needs is the human connection that Heart to Heart provides - especially those isolated during the pandemic. Social services at St. Gertrude is about showing love and care through a listening ear, a smile, a kind word, or a helping hand. It's about putting faith into action by loving our neighbors and tending to their needs.

Please consider supporting our work by volunteering or making a donation to Heart to Heart in church, at the Rectory, or online here: <https://www.givecentral.org/location/8/event/606>. Donations made with a check should be made payable to St. Gertrude Parish with Heart to Heart written in the memo line.

Thank you for supporting our work!

*~ Jane Callahan-Moore*

heart   
to heart



### Swedish NorthShore Hospital & Heart to Heart Ministry Vaccine Drive This Saturday, October 2

Swedish NorthShore Hospital and our Heart to Heart Ministry Center's staff are sponsoring a vaccine drive this Saturday, October 2 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm, with

both Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines administered by medical professionals from Swedish Hospital in the Ministry Center courtyard. You must register for the vaccine event at <https://events.juvar.com/IL-IDPH/qqvjg-545/>.

Please call Jane Callahan-Moore Monday-Friday from 10:00 am-5:00 pm on her cell phone at 773.595.9992 or at the Ministry Center at 773.973-5464 if you have questions.

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Mass Planned/ Catholic Charities Discussion Planned About Resources for Domestic Violence Survivors



On Saturday, October 16 at 5:30 pm, the Archdiocese's Domestic Violence Outreach will host a Mass for Domestic Violence and for survivors and their families. The Mass will be held at Holy Name Cathedral, 730 N. Wabash.

On Thursday, October 21 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Catholic Charities of Chicago will host a free Zoom discussion on the dynamics of domestic violence, specifically how to recognize, support, and identify resources for domestic violence survivors. Register here: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdOioqDguGdLA2\\_ZLeaYULGVQYtEdi-6H](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingId=9601234567890&password=1234567890).

**Domestic Violence Resources:** The Archdiocese of Chicago's Domestic Violence Outreach has a list of resources, available here: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/domestic-violence-outreach/resource-manual#resources>. The St. Gertrude website has a domestic violence information page and a click-away button in the event someone is monitoring computer use. Here is the link: <https://stgertrudechicago.org/domestic-violence-help>.



### Growing in Faith

*"You call it a sin, that I love the dog above all else? The dog stayed with me in the storm; the man, not even in the wind."  
~ Saint Francis of Assisi*

In this week's Gospel, Jesus is instructing us on how to love one another with the same faithfulness and selflessness with which he and God love us. But we are just people and our love is wonderful but flawed. Our intimate relationships are complicated and we will fail one another. We will fail to love as Jesus loves.

For those of us lucky enough to share our lives with animals, we glimpse the perfection of divine love. Their love is not complicated but profound with a beauty and faithfulness that's breathtaking. I deliberately wake my rescue dog, Speedy, out of a sound sleep several times a day just to see the look that belongs to me. After the startle response, his eyes, partially covered with cataracts, go liquid with love. "Oh, it's you! That's so good!" His whole body relaxes secure in love – every time.

Perhaps our love for animals is intensified because they, most often, will predecease us. Maybe it's like the intense love Jesus has for us, his mortal brothers and sisters. When my life is over, I want to wake up with Jesus poking me. "Oh it's you! That's so good!" And, I want to be surrounded by all the creatures who've schooled me in love throughout my life.

~ KC Conway



## Religious Ed News

We are still looking for volunteers to be catechists for the Sunday morning Religious Ed classes and to serve as Kids Word teachers during the 10:30 am Mass in church on Sundays.

A Family Mass has been planned for Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am in church. First and second graders are in charge of the hospitality, and parents are invited to bring something to share, following existing health protocols.

The Presentation of the First Communion Candidates will be held on Sunday, October 17 at the 10:30 am Mass in church. All those making their First Communion in 2022 must be present along with their families.

The Presentation of the Confirmation Candidates will be on Sunday, October 24 at the 10:30 am Mass in church. Those students to be Confirmed on March 5, 2022 must be present along with their families.

~ Eloy Escamilla Pastoral Associate, Religious Education and Youth Ministry

## First Youth Group Gathering Planned for Thursday, October 21

Teens in middle and high school are invited to consider joining the parish youth group! The first Youth Group meeting will be on Thursday, October 21 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be in the front parlor of the second floor of the Ministry Center, 6214 N. Glenwood Ave. All students in 7th grade and up are invited!

For more information, contact Eloy Escamilla at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).



## RCIA Still Open for Those Interested

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church.

**People who are interested are still welcome to join us in the Ministry Center after this Sunday's 10:30 am Masses!**

If you are interested in learning more about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude, contact Kevin Cheers at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org) or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

# Letter from Cardinal Cupich: COVID and Flu Vaccines

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The recent escalation of COVID-19 cases in Illinois is a source of frustration for us all, particularly if we know someone who has been stricken by this virus or has even died from it. Even more disturbing is that with the change of seasons we now are entering a new flu season, which is leading some health officials to warn of a “twindemic.”



It is out of a concern for you and your families that I write to encourage everyone to get the COVID-19 and flu vaccines. While one vaccine does not protect both viruses, neither do the vaccines interfere with each other. It is safe to receive both vaccines and in some cases your health care provider or local pharmacy can provide both in one visit.

The Catholic Church has been a consistent voice in defense of human life and that must continue in this moment. Everyone at the Archdiocese of Chicago, from pastors to administrators, teachers, principals and custodial staff, has been working hard during the pandemic to ensure that our churches and schools operate safely. We must go that extra step now. Ideally, everyone should be vaccinated for the flu by the end of October.

According to the public health officials, additional considerations for groups of people include:

- Children should be vaccinated as soon as possible. Some children need two doses of flu vaccine. For those children it is recommended to get the first dose as soon as vaccine is available, because the second dose needs to be given at least four weeks after the first.
- Women who are in the third trimester of pregnancy can be vaccinated for the flu, since doing so will help protect their infants during the first months of life when they are too young to be vaccinated.

Common flu symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat and extreme fatigue are similar to COVID-19 symptoms. Our health care providers are already overwhelmed by patients infected with the coronavirus, or people mistaking one infection for the other.

Influenza can be, in itself, a deadly illness. More than 200,000 Americans are hospitalized each year with the flu and, while most people recover completely in one to two weeks, some develop potentially life-threatening complications such as pneumonia. Over the past decade, influenza and pneumonia have been linked to an annual average of 3,500 deaths in Illinois, alone.

Nobody likes getting shots, especially children. But the flu shot is easy to find, inexpensive and recommended for just about everyone, even children over the age of six months. Most insurance plans and public health clinics or pharmacies provide a flu vaccine. I encourage you to contact your health care provider to determine which flu vaccine is right for you.

This week, I will roll up my sleeve for the flu vaccination and I encourage you to do the same in order to protect yourselves, your families, and your neighbors. It is a small but heroic thing to do. At the least, you will help make this flu season less deadly for our community.

My prayers are with all of you, and I ask that you pray for me.

*~ Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago*



## NCA Open House

An open house for prospective families will be held at NCA's Primary Campus, 6216 N. Glenwood on Wednesday, October 27 at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to Leigh Holzman at [lholzman@ncaweb.org](mailto:lholzman@ncaweb.org).

Proof of vaccination is required and masks must be worn.



Northside Catholic Academy provides students in grades PK-8 with a challenging, well-rounded curriculum that inspires curiosity, creativity and a love of learning. NCA's curriculum aligns with the Common Core Standards and includes Spanish, Technology, Art, Music and Physical Education. We also implement a STEAM philosophy into our technology curriculum across all grade levels in science, math and art. Come and check us out!



## No Christmas Bazaar This Year

Given the uncertainty of the COVID variants, as well as concerns about social distancing and the safety of our staff and volunteers, the Christmas Bazaar will not be held.

Thank you for understanding!

## Rest in Peace

- Joan Bartosic, mother of Bishop Mark Bartosic, Vicar – Vicariate II
- Cecilia Onyibor, mother of Victoria Anochili

## This Weekend's Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, October 2 at 5:00 pm - Victoria Healy
- Sunday, October 3 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, October 3 at 10:30 am in church - Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, October 3 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, October 2 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, October 3 at 8:00 am - Peter Morin
- Sunday, October 3 at 10:30 am in church - Bob Backis, Rafael Melendez, Carlos Barrigan
- Sunday, October 3 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, October 2 at 5:00 pm - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, October 3 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, October 3 at 10:30 am in church - Cindy Lawson; Jay Lamble-twelve string guitar
- Sunday, October 3 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, October 4: 7:30 am - Sam Bethia+ *+ indicates the person is deceased*
- Tuesday, October 5: 7:30 am - Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Wednesday, October 6: 7:30 am - Kizito Emeto
- Thursday, October 7: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, October 8: 7:30 am - Cecilia Onyibor+; 8:30 am - NCA School Mass
- Saturday, October 9: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm ~ Joseph+ & Michael+ Laczkowski
- Sunday, October 10: 8:00 am - Nguyen Family for Faith, Peace, and Health; 10:30 am - Cecilia Onyibor+; 10:30 am Gym - Tim Philipp+

## New Parishioners

- Anthony Shoplik and Rachel Schratz
- Isabel and Jason Karceski, daughter Melody

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Shirley Marie Gonzales | • Tina Piemonte        |
| • Helen Banta             | • Felipe Hall and Family | • Charley Scantlebury  |
| • Jean Bautista           | • Lucia Hall             | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Walter Bradford         | • Gina Heidkamp          | • Maria Silva          |
| • Sharon Brown            | • Maria Hertl            | • Peggy Stoffel        |
| • Connie Bueck            | • Daniel Hidalgo         | • The Sullivan family  |
| • Lilly Buie              | • Bernice Kiedysz        | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Maggie Callaway         | • Dean Mattoni           | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Aida Calvopina          | • Sr. Terri McKenzie     | • Valerie Williams     |
| • Connie Cool             | • Molly Morris           | • Ken & Vyes Yoza      |
| • Caloy Desembrana        | • Karey Myers            |                        |
| • Ann Collins Dole        | • Massielle Ojeda        |                        |

## Donate to our Parish

Parishioners can donate to St. Gertrude:

- Text the word *Donate* to 1.773.741.9505.
- PayPal link - visit our parish website at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) for additional information.

*Our Heart to Heart office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm. Contact them at 773.973.5464.*

## Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident Priest  
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music  
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director, Heart to Heart  
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate  
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry  
Margie Guadagno, Office Manager  
Laurie Hasbrook, Office/Heart to Heart Staff  
Tracy Shields, Communications  
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management